GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3040
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008
EXCAVATION OF SITES
Gamang Shri Giridhar

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the excavation of archaeological sites taken up by Bhubaneswar Archaeological Circle during last three years and progress made so far;

(b) the protection and preservation of ancient monuments so far made after creation of Bhubanswar circle;

(c) the funds provided by the ministry and special funds recommended by finance commission for protection and preservation of State protected ancient monuments in Orissa; and

(d) the list of sites and monuments undertaken so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) The Excavation Branch of ASI at Bhubaneswar conducted excavation at Barabati Fort, Cuttack during the field seasons 2003-2004 and 2006-2007. The excavation yielded structural remains of 14th -17th Centrury A.D. and important antiquities such as seated goddess, gandharva,lion-head etc.

(b) Since the creation of Bhubaneswar Circle in 1985,a total of 12 monuments/ sites have been declared as of national importance, bringing the total number of centrally protected monuments in Orissa to 78. The list is at Annexure-I

(c) The ASI does not fund the protection and preservation of State protected ancient monuments. The 12th Finance Commission awarded Rs. 6.00 crores for the protection and preservation of State protected ancient monuments in Orissa. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 1.50 crores was provided during 2006-07.

(d) The list at Annexure − II.